

WAR DEPARTMENT

December 6, 1945

MASTERPIECES ARRIVE IN U. S.

Approximately 200 masterpieces of painting from Germany will be in the National Gallery of Art at Washington, Sunday. The shipment, which includes works by such artists as Botticelli, Van Eyck, Memling, Dürer, Raphael, Titian, Giorgione, Rembrandt and Rubens, will arrive in New York tomorrow aboard the S.S. James Parker.

The paintings, which formerly had been in German museums damaged or destroyed by the war, were brought to this country in accordance with the plan outlined in a White House statement of last September 26 which announced that the War Department would transport certain perishable art treasures to this country for safe keeping and in trust for the German people.

These works of art will be returned to the museums when conditions in Europe warrant. In the meantime, the National Gallery of Art, through the chairman of its board of trustees, Harlan Fiske Stone, Chief Justice of the United States, has arranged for the storage and protection of the masterpieces while they are in this country.

It is not contemplated that any of these works of art will be exhibited to the public at present.

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